

Safe PLANES Act

Bill Summary

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. Safe Passengers and Lading in Aviation for the National Enhancement of Security Act, or Safe PLANES Act of 2004.

SEC. 2. TSA SCREENER WORKFORCE. Requires a study of the necessary TSA screening workforce size and a report to Congress to determine whether the statutory cap of 45,000 FTE needs to be adjusted.

SEC. 3. CRITERIA FOR OPTING OUT OF FEDERALIZED SCREENING. Requires DHS to certify that security levels will be maintained if airports are allowed to opt-out of TSA screening. Lists criteria by which TSA will evaluate application.

SEC. 4. PRIORITIZED EDS DEPLOYMENT. Requires that priority be given to airports that are not screening 100% of checked baggage in determining which airports should receive federal assistance.

SEC 5. ELIMINATION OF BAG MATCH. Removes the matching of bags to passengers as an acceptable alternative when electronic baggage screening is unavailable (leaving physical and canine inspection as the allowed options).

SEC. 6. SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES. Requires a report on the research and development underway for aviation security technologies, including maturity of the technology and planned deployment schedule. Requires TSA to update the standards used to certify detection equipment.

SEC. 7. CARGO SECURITY. Requires DHS to establish and begin implementing within 120 days a program to fully inspect all cargo on passenger aircraft.

SEC. 8. DATABASE ON KNOWN SHIPPER COMPANIES. Requires TSA to complete a Known Shipper Database by April 1, 2005.

SEC. 9. AIR MARSHAL TRAINING. Requires DHS to set a security standard for federal law enforcement officers to meet before serving as alternate air marshals.

SEC. 10. COORDINATION OF AIR MARSHAL ACTIVITIES. Directs DHS to work with foreign governments to coordinate air marshal training, procedures, and information sharing.

SEC. 11. OVERFLIGHT SECURITY. Requires hardened cockpits for overflights.

SEC. 12. DAILY PREFLIGHT SEARCHES OF AIRCRAFT. Requires DHS to set regulations for pre-flight searches by flight crews and others and authorized funds for training of flight crews and others.

SEC. 13. FLIGHT CREW COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. Directs DHS to provide flight crews with appropriate in-flight communication devices.

SEC. 14. AIRPORT SITE ACCESS AND PERIMETER SECURITY. Requires DHS to report on implementation of previous statutory requirements for perimeter security and access control. Requires all terminal airport workers to go through screening and requires more-in-depth background checks for airport workers accessing secure areas.

SEC. 15. MANPADS. Requires a detailed report on deployment options after the completion of the MANPADS countermeasure study and diplomatic and international programs to reduce the MANPADS threat.